(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the extent of FDI available for townships in SEZs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100% is permissible under automatic route for establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), covering industrial, commercial or social infrastructure or other facilities necessary for the development of SEZs. The reasons for permitting upto 100% FDI in establishment of SEZs are to attract foreign investment in establishment of SEZs, generation of additional economic activity, promotion of exports of goods and services, creation of employment opportunities and development of infrastructure facilities.

Separate Tobacco Board for Non-Virginia Tobacco

1650. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to form a separate Tobacco Board for non-Virginia type of tobacco in the country;

(b) if so, the details of this proposal;

(c) whether Government are aware that non-Virginia tobacco is an important crop in many States like Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, etc;

(d) whether any survey has been done on the exports potential of non-Virginia tobacco and its potential; and

(e) the details of steps proposed to bring the crop under active Government supervision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (d) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(e) There is no proposal to bring the non-FCV tobacco under Government's supervision.